

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 053502

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ORIGIN EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 H-01 EB-03 OES-02 SP-02 CIAE-00

L-01 PRS-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /036 R

DRAFTED BY EA/K:PMAYHEW:CHG

APPROVED BY EA/K - MR O'DONOHUE

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EXIM - RRENDELL

DESIRED DISTRIBUTION

EA, H, S/S, EB, SCI, S/P, EXIM, ERDA

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P 102211Z MAR 75

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TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 053502

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, KS,

SUBJECT: KOREAN RATIFICATION OF NPT

REF: SEOUL 1239, STATE 051380

1. SENATOR STEVENSON HAS INTRODUCED JOINT RESOLUTION NOTING THAT KOREA NOT NPT PARTY AND CALLING ON EXIM TO DEFER APPROVAL OF FINANCING FOR KORI II NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT UNTIL TWO REPORTS PREVIOUSLY REQUESTED FROM PRESIDENT ARE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. FIRST OF THESE IS A REVIEW OF ALL US LAWS GOVERNING EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND REACTORS TO DETERMINE THEIR ADEQUACY TO PREVENT NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION FOR NON-PEACEFUL PURPOSES. SECOND IS A REVIEW OF THE ADEQUACY OF DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARD SYSTEMS TO PREVENT DIVERSION OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS AND EFFORTS BY US

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SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 053502

AND OTHER COUNTRIES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARDS

IN ANTICIPATION OF MAY 1975 NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE. BOTH REPORTS ARE DUE BY END OF APRIL. SENATOR REPORTEDLY PLANS SCHEDULE HEARINGS ON RESOLUTION EARLY NEXT WEEK.

2. IN HIS REMARKS IN INTRODUCING RES STEVENSON NOTED IMPORTANCE OF STUDIES AND FACT ERDA QUOTE WHICH INTENDED TO PLAY ROLE IN US ASSISTED NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT UNQUOTE NOT YET FULLY OPERATIONAL. QUOTE UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES

IT WOULD BE FOLLY FOR U.S. TO PROCEED AT THIS POINT WITH SUBSIDIZED ASSISTANCE FOR THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR CAPABILITY IN SOUTH KOREA. THAT COUNTRY IS NOT A PARTY TO THE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION TREATY. THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SOUTH KOREA IS WEAK. IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT "PEACEFUL" NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS, AND SOUTH KOREAN INTENTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NPT RATIFICATION, THE DEVELOPMENT OF REPROCESSING FACILITIES AND NUCLEAR EXPLOSIVES ARE NOT CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD. UNQUOTE

3. EARLY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF KOREAN INTENTION TO RATIFY NPT NOW OBVIOUSLY MUCH MORE USEFUL. HOWEVER, SENATOR'S CONCERN NOT RESTRICTED TO KOREA ALONE. KORI II LOAN HAPPENED TO BE FIRST OF ITS TYPE EXIM SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS. THEREFORE, EVEN IF KOREANS RAPIDLY MOVE TO NPT RATIFICATION, THERE MAY BE RELUCTANCE TO ALLOW MOVE ON KORI II (AND OTHER SUCH LOANS) UNTIL REPORTS REQUESTED BY CONGRESS ARE REVIEWED.

4. WE ARE STILL DISCUSSING THIS PROBLEM WITH INTERESTED STATE OFFICES AND EXIM. WE WILL HAVE BETTER READ-OUT LATER IN WEEK AND WILL INFORM YOU SOONEST.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NPT, TREATY RATIFICATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE053502
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: PMAYHEW:CHG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750084-0252
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750365/aaaacgpd.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 75 SEOUL 1239, 75 STATE 051380
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KOREAN RATIFICATION OF NPT
TAGS: PARM, KS, XMB
To: SEOUL
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006